Abolition of Bonded Labour

1382. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps for the abolition of bonded labour;

(b) if so, the progress made in different states in that direction;

(c) whether steps have also been taken for their rehabilitation; and

(d) if so, the State-wise details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) Bonded Labour System stands abolished by law throughout the country w.e.f. 25.10.1975 under the Bonded Labour System Ordinance 1975 subsequently replaced by the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The State Governments have reported identification and release of 2,51,424 bonded labourers since enactment of the Act.

The Central Government have launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Rehabilitation of bonded labourers under which State Governments are provided financial assistance on matching pattern (50:50) basis. The scheme envisages a provision of rehabilitation grant upto a ceiling limit of Rs. 6,250/- per bonded labour, half of which is given as central share. The State Governments have also been advised to suitably integrate/dovetail the centrally sponsored scheme with other anti-poverty programmes so as to pool and integrate resources available under different schemes for the purpose of effective rehabilitation of bonded labourers. Out of 2,51,424 bonded labourers identified and released only about 6,000 bonded labourers are awaiting rehabilitation.

State-wise detials are as below:

S.No.	Name of the State	Number of Bonded Labourers	
		Identified and Released	Rehabilitated upto 31.3.1995
1.	Andhra Pradesh	36,289	28,971
2.	Bihar	12,986	12,180
3.	Karnataka	62,708	55,109
4.	Madhya Pradesh	12,804	11,897
5.	Orissa	49,971	46,804
6.	Rajasthan	7,478	6,014
7.	Tamil Nadu	38,886	39,261
8.	Maharashtra	1,382	1,300
9.	Uttar Pradesh	27,489	27,469
10.	Kerala	823	710
11.	Haryana	544	21
12.	Gujarat	64	64
	TOTAL:	2,51,424	2,29,800

*In addition, about 16,644 bonded labourers are reported to be not available for rehabilitation due to death and other causes.